

## NEWS RELEASE

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPOINTMENT

Hickinbotham Group Managing Director Michael Hickinbotham sees his appointment today to the Economic Development Board as an opportunity to provide a strong business focus to the State's key economic and social drivers – housing, population and planning.

Mr Hickinbotham is also Chair of the Australian Population Institute (SA).

"Housing affordability and population are critical issues affecting the future growth of South Australia," Mr Hickinbotham said.

"The State Government's commitment last month to an urgent review of land supply is an important step forward in identifying areas for change and delivering a simpler and more efficient planning system in the future.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to help shape the way forward in this area to the benefit of future home buyers, the Government and industry.

"South Australia has an opportunity to lead the way in driving affordability in housing by lifting restrictions on land.

"There are strong links between land supply, housing affordability and population and South Australia needs to free up constraints on land supply.

"If you restrict the supply of land and the demand remains the same, then the price goes up.

"We also must look at ways to make our planning system simpler and more efficient."

Mr Hickinbotham says research shows conclusively that affordable housing is a key driver of population flows and in attracting people to South Australia and retaining them.

He said South Australia needs to do all it can to prevent people relocating interstate and encourage more ex-patriots to come home.

"I am very passionate about South Australia and keen to work with industry and the Government to ensure Adelaide grows so that it is a great place for future generations to live and work," he said.

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